

GAME BIRDS ARE GOING

The Woodcock and Woodduck Nearing Danger of Extinction

RELIEF NEEDED AT ONCE

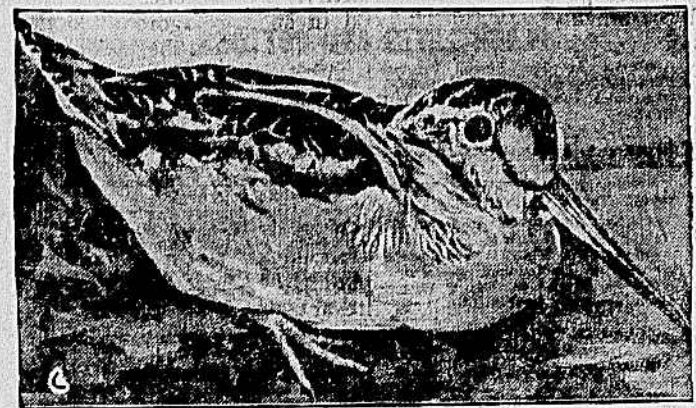
Shooting of Former Should Be Prohibited for Four Years—Grouse and Quail Are Rapidly Disappearing.

In the season of shooting the time to ask the sportsman to stay his hand? The September fields and woodlands are thronged with men bent on killing. "It is well enough," they say, "there are plenty of birds, and those that are left will nest again next year."

It is true that in one sense there are plenty of birds, plenty yet for a fair day's sport, but what of the past and the future? It is only the older sportsmen who can judge of numbers by comparison. The graybeard who goes afield to-day misses the quail cover multitudes of his youth. The strapping sportsman finds four covers in a day, deals out death in each, and in the absence of experience repeats, "There are plenty of birds."

WOODCOCK DISAPPEARING

Consider the woodcock, one of the noblest, if not the noblest, of our game birds. It is the table delicacy par excellence, and its shot-riddled body is



THE WOODCOCK, TABLE DELICACY PAR EXCELLENCE. THIS NOBLE GAME BIRD IS RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING AND UNLESS GIVEN BETTER PROTECTION WILL SOON BECOME EXTINCT.

worth a dollar to the pot hunter. Is not this enough in itself to show why the woodcock is vanishing? If this be not enough, let it be known that for some inscrutable reason this bird, valuable from the economic standpoint of food supply, is more poorly protected by law throughout the country than are any of the other game birds which, from their fecundity and from their habits of life, stand less in need of the guard of the law.

The woodcock (philohela minor), unless something be done and done quickly, will soon be classed with the extinct auk and the "proverbially extinct" dodo. This is no idle statement made by a protectionist for principle for the sake of stopping the sport of the multitude. The plea for the protection of the woodcock, and the statement that unless protected quickly and adequately it will soon be a bird of the past, have the sanction of the United States government. Dr. A. K. Fisher, an ornithologist of the biological survey, recently investigated the reasons for the decrease in numbers of woodcock and wood duck—another bird that is rapidly vanishing—and on ending his work, he said: "Unless strong protective measures are soon adopted the woodcock and wood duck, two popular and valuable game birds, will become extinct—the woodcock absolutely, the wood duck over a large part of its range."

HABITS OF WOODCOCK

The woodcock is a migratory bird. It winters in the Southern States and comes to the North in summer to rear its young. Some of the birds, however, it must be said, are practically resident throughout the year in some localities of the South, and disbanding the wanderer's life, build their homes in neighborhoods to which they cling throughout their short lives. In winter the woodcock is shot ruthlessly everywhere that it is found in the Southern States. It is sold for food in every winter resort hotel in the Southland, and it is shipped Northward to supply the winter markets of the great cities.

Harassed all winter through with dog and gun, the woodcock takes up its Northern flight early in the spring, possibly hoping that far away it may get some rest from persecution. It is an idle hope. Though there are laws in many of the Northern States which prohibit the spring shooting of woodcock, the birds are killed in great numbers by men who go out ostensibly to hunt snipe and plover, while the "wisdom" of the law-makers allow them to be killed at a time when they most need protection. The woodcock often nests early, so early that spring floods

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frequently drown out its low-lying habitation. The bird is not persevering. Its heart fails it in the face of difficulties. Unlike the quail, which is bound to raise a brood, "it takes all summer," it frequently will make no attempt at a second nesting after the first has proved a failure. This fact in itself was against rapid increase in the ranks of the birds.

SHOULD HAVE FOUR YEARS' GRACE

Members of the Legislatures of the Northern States seem to have read somewhere the statements of scientists that

few words some of the things with which the woodcock have to contend in their losing flight for life. Mr. Wayne writes of the effect on the birds of a cold wave which struck the coast of South Carolina about the middle of Feb. He says: "The woodcock arrived in countless thousands. Prior to their arrival I had seen but two birds the entire winter. Tens of thousands were killed by woodcock sportsmen, and thousands were frozen to death. The great majority were so emaciated that they were practically nothing but feathers. One man killed 200 pairs in a few hours. Late Tuesday afternoon I easily caught several of the birds on the snow and put them into a thawed spot on the edge of a swift-running stream, in order that they should not perish, but on going to the place the next morning I saw one frozen. It will be many years before this fine bird can re-establish itself, even under the most favorable conditions."

WOOD DUCK DIMINISHING
The wood duck is our summer duck. It nests in hollow trees along the streams in nearly every State east of the Mississippi River. It is the most beautiful of the duck tribe. It lacks the shyness of the rest of the family and frequently builds its nest near our houses. It repays its friendliness with charges of shot. The fact that the wood duck breeds as it does within the United States instead of going to foreign lands as do the mallards, is its family, makes the season for its shooting so much the longer. For many ducks man has to wait until the migrant is at its height. In the case of the wood duck, the wood duck along the streams while he is hunting grouse in September.

Duck shooting is allowed in the spring in nearly every State in the Union. The birds at that season are hurrying to the nesting grounds. They are in poor condition for the table and the only excuse for their shooting is the seemingly insatiable lust of man for slaughter. The language is none too strong. There is a crying need for more wisdom in game legislation. Unless the wisdom develop and action follow its development, the children of a generation not far down the road of posterity will know the woodcock and the wood duck and perchance many other of our finest game birds only by the pictures which they see in their natural history books.

GROUSE AND QUAIL

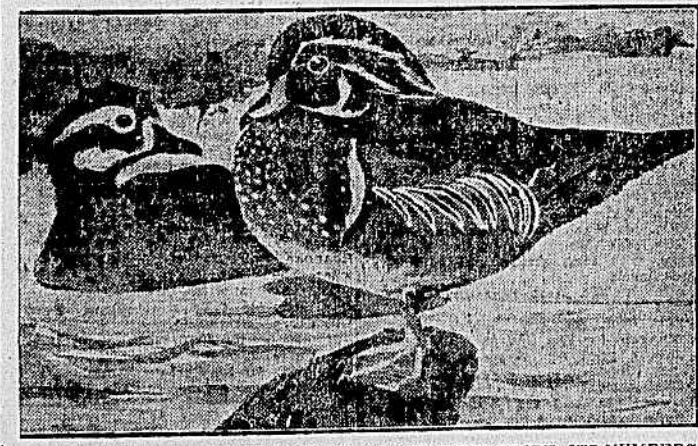
The ruffed grouse (Bonasa umbellus) called also pheasant and partridge, is rapidly diminishing in numbers. It is eagerly sought for by the sportsman and the pot hunter. The bird is a native of the Northern States and is found in the mountains of the West. It is a very hardy bird and is able to keep up its fight for life longer than can the woodcock. It has a bolt-like flight and is a very fast runner. Its plumage is very thick and its feathers are very soft. It is a very good swimmer and is able to swim for long distances. It is a very good climber and is able to climb trees and rocks with ease. It is a very good digger and is able to dig for its food. It is a very good fighter and is able to fight with its enemies. It is a very good parent and is able to care for its young. It is a very good friend and is able to befriend its friends. It is a very good enemy and is able to be enemy to its enemies. It is a very good everything and is able to be everything that it needs to be.

I have seen young quail in October that were barely able to fly. The birds are killed by the hundreds of thousands every year for the markets, but their fecundity is such that when they have nearly outdirectly disappeared their ranks are replenished rapidly by the procreating of their young. It may not be out of place to say, at this point, that in the far West they have been killing off the sage grouse rapidly. The grouse are nearly all gone, and now the farmers and ranchmen don't know what to do with the grasshoppers which formed the bird's favorite food. Not much searching is necessary to find the moral in this bit of fact from the far West.

Great Man's Small Funeral

The lack of display at the funeral of Lord Salisbury was in a way almost as ostentatious as the extravagance which it was intended to rebuke. It was the late premier's wish that his funeral should cost not over \$100. As a matter of fact, it cost \$10. The late Duke of Westminster, the richest nobleman in Great Britain, set a like example. His expense attending his obsequies amounted to only \$25. It is pointed out that the wood for these noble funerals was grown on their own estates and shaped by their own artisans, but the purpose of each was to discountenance the ostentatious and often ridiculous practice of making an extravagant display at funerals.

The custom both here and abroad naturally precludes a funeral which is so simple as to check a tendency which is coming too marked. Naturally no objection can be raised to a custom which implies every respect for the dead when in respect is not exhibited too largely in externals. It is a wholly false pride which prompts the great sadness which the poor often feel at the expense of funerals.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



THE WOOD DUCK, MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THE DUCK TRIBE. ITS NUMBERS ARE RAPIDLY DECREASING.

and the sale of the birds for at least four years. Then there might be some chance that the cover of the future would hold their quota of the noble quarry.

I do not wish to dismiss this woodcock subject without quoting from an article written by Arthur T. Wayne four years ago for the Auk, the organ of the American Ornithologists' Union. It tells in a

HORSES AND HORSEMEN

Abd El Kader, Jr., Son of Abd El Kader and Nina.

HE SIRES GOOD HUNTERS

Charlottesville's Horse Show was Fine
Richmond's Stable—Skyland Girl,
2:15 1-4—Other Interesting Notes.

A Virginia bred horse deserving of more than passing mention as a sire of hunters and jumpers is the chestnut stallion, Abd El Kader, Jr., who was formerly known and raced under the name of Aeronaut. He was sired by Abd El Kader, the thoroughbred son of imp. Australian. His dam was Nina, by Senator, second dam by Richmond, third dam by Richmond, thus making him probably three-quarters thoroughbred at least. Abd El Kader, Jr., was bred by George Turner, of King William county, Va., and foaled 1882; hence the chestnut stallion has reached the age of seven years and is remarkably well preserved and yet vigorous. At four years old he passed to James R. Branch and Branch Cunningham, both of this city, and later to Fred W. Scott, owner of the banking house of Scott and Stringfellow. Mr. Scott the son of Abd El Kader went to Edmund Ruffin, over whose stud in Hanover county he ruled as premier for years. Since then the horse has been owned by N. J. Crull, of this city, from whom he passed to Thomas Winston, of Louisville, and from him to his present owners, J. B. McComb and Brother, of the Glen Cove Farm, Somerset, Va. In his prime Abd El Kader, Jr., was a horse of remarkable beauty and finish, and he could take up weight and run over both on the flat and across country. In the stud his work has been of a most satisfactory nature, because he has sired some of the best hunters and jumpers ever sent out from Virginia, and as he is still vigorous and likely to be for years to come, he looks for others of this sort to spring from his loins. Meeting with James B. McComb, one of his owners, at Charlottesville, he informed me that Abd El Kader carried him through a stiff hunt in January last, and that the old stallion finished strong, certainly a remarkable exhibition of stamina and courage in a horse of his age; but the Abd El Kaders are a long-lived tribe, and this son of the family ably supports its claims to longevity.

The 2-3 class, trotting, purse \$500, at the Gentlemen's Driving Park, Baltimore, on the 2d instant, furnished a long drawn out contest of seven heats, the winner finally turning up in the New York mare, Marie's Baby, by Directum Kelly, who won the first and seventh heats, while the Z, by Red Leo, a product of the Walton Farm, Falls Mills, finished first in the third and sixth heats, and was the controlling horse in each of the others. The time of the second heat was 2:30 1-2, a new record for Marie's Z. Louis Purcell, the bay gelding, by Charles H. Purcell, owned by Sidney P. Clay, of this city, won the first and second heats in 2:18 1-4 and 2:18 3-4, and then not being keyed up for such a bruising contest, grew leg weary and finished behind the flag in the sixth heat. The time of the first heat constituted a new record for the Purcell gelding, being a reduction of just eleven seconds from his former mark. Another starter in this race was the chestnut mare, Hazel, 2:26 1-4, by Hinder Wilkes, entered and driven by W. L. Bass, of Aeca Farm. She finished ninth in the first heat and was behind the flag in the next.

Secretary W. L. Andrews, of the Roanoke Industrial and Agricultural Association, Roanoke, Va., has issued the speed programme of the fair and race meeting to be held there during the week of October 21st-24th, when purses ranging from \$50 to \$500 each will be offered for trotting, pacing and running. There will be four races each day, two of them being for harness horses and the others for runners. The principle events on the card are those for 2:17 trotters and 2:20 pacers, free-for-all trot and pace, and the 2:22 trot and 2:24 pace, for which the purses are of the uniform value of \$300 each. The Roanoke fair follows that at Radford, Va., the dates of the latter being October 18th-19th.

The Charlottesville Horse Show was a big success. The attendance was large and ideal weather conditions prevailed on both days. The entries were quite numerous, and as a rule every class was well filled, especially those for hunters and jumpers. C. H. Moore, president, Judge George W. Morris, vice president, J. B. Andrews, treasurer; F. B. Triebel, secretary, and Joel M. Cochran, manager, were in control of affairs, and are to be congratulated most heartily upon the success of their efforts. A noticeable feature was the promptness with which each class was called, and it may be said that exhibitors were for the most part equally responsive; hence there were few hitches in the programme.

The trotters and pacers in George R. Richmond's stable, at the mile track of the Deep Run Hunt Club, are all doing nicely. Most of them are owned by members of the club. The best known member of Richmond's string is the bay gelding, Doug, Thomas, 2:19 3-4, by Blue Bird. This horse was raced in 1902, and did a trial mile at Savannah last fall in 2:10 1-4. He is well thought of and

HIGH CLASS DRUGGISTS AND — OTHERS.

The better class of druggists, everywhere, are men of scientific attainments and high integrity, who devote their lives to the welfare of their fellow men in supplying the best of remedies and purest medicinal agents of known value, in accordance with physicians' prescriptions and scientific formula. Druggists of the better class manufacture many excellent remedies, but always under original or official names and they never sell false brands, or imitation medicines. They are the men to deal with when in need of anything in their line, which usually includes all standard remedies and corresponding adjuncts of a first-class pharmacy and the finest and best of toilet articles and preparations and many useful accessories and remedial appliances. The earning of a fair living, with the satisfaction which arises from a knowledge of the benefits conferred upon their patrons and assistance to the medical profession, is usually their greatest reward for long years of study and many hours of daily toil. They all know that Syrup of Figs is an excellent laxative remedy and that it gives universal satisfaction, and therefore they are selling many millions of bottles annually to the well informed purchasers of the choicest remedies, and they always take pleasure in handing out the genuine article bearing the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package. They know that in cases of colds and headaches attended by biliousness and constipation and of weakness or torpidity of the liver and bowels, arising from irregular habits, indigestion, or over-eating, that there is no other remedy so pleasant, prompt and beneficial in its effects as Syrup of Figs, and they are glad to sell it because it gives universal satisfaction.

Owing to the excellence of Syrup of Figs, the universal satisfaction which it gives and the immense demand for it, imitations have been made, tried and condemned, but there are individual druggists to be found, here and there, who do not maintain the dignity and principles of the profession and whose greed gets the better of their judgment, and who do not hesitate to recommend and try to sell the imitations in order to make a larger profit. Such preparations sometimes have the name—"Syrup of Figs"—or "Fig Syrup," and of some piratical concern, or fictitious fig syrup company, printed on the package, but they never have the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of the package. The imitations should be rejected because they are injurious to the system. In order to sell the imitations they find it necessary to resort to misrepresentation or deception, and whenever a dealer passes off on a customer a preparation under the name of "Syrup of Figs" or "Fig Syrup," which does not bear the full name of the California Fig Syrup Co. printed on the front of the package, he is attempting to deceive and mislead the patron who has been so unfortunate as to enter his establishment, whether it be large or small, for if the dealer resorts to misrepresentation and deception in one case he will do so with other medicinal agents, and in the filling of physicians' prescriptions, and should be avoided by every one who values health and happiness. Knowing that the great majority of druggists are reliable, we supply the immense demand for our excellent remedy entirely through the druggists, of whom it may be purchased everywhere, in original packages only, at the regular price of fifty cents per bottle, but as exceptions exist it is necessary to inform the public of the facts, in order that all may decline or return any imitation which may be sold to them. If it does not bear the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package, do not hesitate to return the article and to demand the return of your money, and in future go to one of the better class of druggists who will sell you what you wish and the best of everything in his line at reasonable prices.

will be kept over for the season of 1904. Among other horses in this stable are Foxie Lambert, 2:22, by Alcantara; Thiel, a fast green mare, by Egwood, 2:18 1-2; D. G. 5, pacer, by Willis, and some half dozen others without records.

The brown pacing mare, Skyland Girl, who was campaigned with success on Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina tracks during 1901 and 1902, by George F. Dyer, now of Roanoke, Va., seems good again this season, and made a new record of 2:15 1-4 at Goshen, N. Y., recently. Skyland Girl was bred by the estate of the late W. H. Wilson, Cynthiana, Ky., but failed the property of the wealthy tobaccoist, R. J. Reynolds, of Winston, N. C., by whom she was owned for several years. She was sired by Shimmers, dam the former famous mare, Mamie Woods, 2:20, by Woods' Hambletonian.

An exchange says: "To the late Pierre Lorillard is attributed the following epigram, which certainly has more than a modicum of truth in it: 'In this world, if you live long enough, you will grow tired of everything of men and women, of yachts and dinners, of politics and money-making; but when the fascination of the race horse gets into the blood it never leaves. It is the greatest sport and the poorest business ever devised by man.'"

W. Otto Nolting, for years a resident here, but now a full-fledged farmer and the owner of a fine estate in Louisiana county, captured a couple of blue ribbons in the roadster classes at Charlottesville with his range, attractive-looking chestnut gelding, Red Rock, five years old. The horse was in good shape, well shown, and the rig one of the best appointments seen at the show. Red Rock was bred by the Nolting Brothers and sired by Egwood, 2:18 1-4, the former premier at Whitby Farm, in Chesterfield county.

One of the largest exhibitors at the Charlottesville Horse Show was Dr. P. D. Owsley, of Greenwood, Va., who had entries in most of the classes. Dr. Owsley captured a number of ribbons and among them a fair share of blues. The Doctor has a large stable of show horses at Greenwood, and is regarded as a genial, fair-minded sportsman.

The bay mare, Lady Olga, 5, 15:1, owned by Secretary J. B. Ricketts, of the Orange Horse Show Association, Orange, Va., made an excellent showing at Charlottesville, where the daughter of Fesler was exhibited in three classes and came off with two blues and a red ribbon.

A WESLEY INCIDENT

First Methodist Lay Preacher Followed in a Year by Twenty.

The societies met on Sundays, but never at the hour of church service, and when neither Wesley nor any other clergyman was present, spent the hour in prayer and religious conversation or exhortation. From exhortation before the society to formal preaching before it was only a step; but to Wesley it seemed a very long step.

While in Bristol he learned, one day in 1739, that one of his converts, Thomas Maxfield, had been preaching before the Foundry Society. He hurried up to London to stop it. But his mother—who since the death of her husband had been living in a room of the Foundry building—met him with a protest. "John, take care what you do with reference to that young man, for he is as surely called to preach as you are." Admonished by this counsel from one whose caution on all church matters he knew to be quite equal to his own, Wesley reluctantly consented to hear Maxfield preach. After listening, he exclaimed: "It is the Lord's doing; let him do as seemeth in him good." Convinced in an act of deep-rooted discipline, he sanctioned the first Methodist lay preacher. Within a year there were twenty.—Century Magazine.

My Tussle With a Black Bass.

This sort of thing went on for an hour and thirty-five minutes, when, by the hardest work I ever did, using about 70 feet of line, I succeeded in getting the fish near enough to the boat to see that it was a fine black sea bass, looking more like a young whale than any bass I had ever seen. Gardner hooked the fish with his gaff, by which he held him until a ten-foot piece of rope was passed to him which was run up through the gills of the fish and out through his mouth, after that he was considered safe. Jim became himself again and said that now we could laugh all we wished. Another fish, apparently as large as the one we landed, came nearly to the boat's edge, probably the

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